polypropylene fiber having a melting point of from 50 °C to 200 °C twisted together, wherein no fiber constitutes a core of the composite cord and the metallic filaments are placed with gaps after the polymer fibers are softened or melted under vulcanization conditions.

B1

4. (Twice Amended) A pneumatic tire employing for its reinforcing element a composite cord having a 1 x n construction where n is an integer from 3 to 12 with from 2 to 11 metallic filaments and from 1 to 5 polymer fibers selected from the group consisting of polyethylene fiber and polypropylene fiber having a melting point of from 50 °C to 200 °C twisted together, wherein no fiber constitutes a core of the composite cord and the metallic filaments are placed with gaps after the polymer fibers are softened or melted under vulcanization conditions.

B2

Add the following new claims 7 and 8:

- - 7. The composite cord according to claim 1, wherein the metallic filaments do not form a sheath around the core.

B3